23. (Amended) A near equilibrium-dried bioactive glass comprising, by weight %:

SiO_2	-	40 - 90
CaO	-	4 - 45
Na_2O	-	0 - 20
P_2O_5	-	2 - 10
CaF_2	-	0 - 25
B_2O_3	-	0 - 10

and [a surface area greater than the non-near equilibrium-dried bioactive glass having an identical composition] an average pore diameter of about 30 angstroms to about 180 angstroms.

REMARKS

The amendments discussed at the interview are set forth above. Upon entry of the present Amendment, Claims 14-17 and 23-26 will be pending in the present application.

As discussed at the interview, the present claims are allowable over the art of record. Also, the rejections under 35 U.S.C.§112, second paragraph are addressed as follows. Claim 18 has been canceled. The term "near equilibrium drying" means drying under the conditions at least above about 50% humidity and more preferably near the two phase boundaries in the phase diagram at the temperature and pressure sufficient to yield a bioactive glass. Near equilibrium drying is also "drying under the conditions near the phase boundary of water, methanol, ethanol, acetone, liquid CO_2, benzene or other liquid used in a drying chamber." See Specification page 7, lines 15-20.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record.